

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 19 and 20, amend Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11 and 17 and add Claim 21 as follows:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) In an agricultural combine disposed in an ambient
2 environment, an unloading auger for removing a crop material from a storage bin, the
3 unloading auger comprising:
4 an infeed section coupled to an outlet of said storage bin for receiving the crop
5 material from said storage bin;
6 an outfeed section including a first segment coupled to said infeed section and a
7 second segment hingedly connected to said first segment, wherein said first segment and
8 said second segment ~~can be relatively~~ are pivoted in a substantially horizontal plane
9 between a storage position and coaxially connected unloading position while maintaining
10 said infeed section in a substantially vertical orientation, ~~and~~
11 ~~an actuator for rotating at least one of said first segment and said second~~
12 ~~segment around said hinge.~~
- 1 2. (Currently amended) The unloading auger according to Claim 1, further comprising
2 a lockable hinge disposed between said first segment and said second segment.
- 1 3. (Canceled).

March 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 10, 2003

1 4. (Currently amended) The unloading auger according to Claim 1, wherein:
2 ~~said actuator is a hydraulic cylinder~~, wherein grain is prevented from being
3 accidentally released through an open end of one of said segments when said auger is in
4 the storage position.

1 5. (Previously Presented) The unloading auger according to Claim 4, wherein
2 said first and second segments are positioned generally
3 parallel to the longitudinal axis of said combine with said second segment
4 being positioned generally adjacent to an outside edge of said first segment
5 when said auger is in the storage position.

1 6. (Currently amended) An agricultural combine comprising:
2 a storage bin;
3 an unloading auger movable between a storage position and an unloading position
4 for unloading a crop material from said storage bin, said auger including:
5 a horizontal section in communication with said storage bin, wherein said
6 horizontal section includes a first segment and a second segment, wherein said first
7 segment is movable with respect to said storage bin, wherein said first segment and said
8 second segment are horizontally disposed when said auger is disposed in the storage
9 position and in the unloading position;
10 a hinged joint pivotally connecting said first segment and said second
11 segment, thereby allowing said first segment and said second segment to be relatively

March 3, 2004

Reply to Office Action mailed December 10, 2003

12 pivoted when moving said auger between the storage position and the unloading

13 position; and

14 ~~an actuator for rotating at least one of said first segment and said~~

15 ~~second segment around said hinge joint.~~

1 7. (Canceled).

1 8. (Previously Presented) The agricultural combine according to Claim 6, wherein said

2 auger is manually relocated between the storage position and the unloading position.

1 9. (Canceled).

1 10. (Previously Presented) The agricultural combine according to Claim 6, wherein:

2 said combine includes a body with a rearmost end; and

3 no portion of said first segment and said second segment

4 extends beyond said rearmost end when said auger is in the

5 storage position.

1 11. (Currently amended) The agricultural combine according to Claim 6, wherein

2 ~~said actuator is a hydraulic cylinder that rotates said first segment and~~

3 ~~said second segment around said hinged joint; and~~

4 wherein said first hinged joint is lockable when said auger is in the

5 unloading position.

1 12. (Canceled).

1 13. (Previously Presented) The agricultural combine according to Claim 6, wherein said
2 first segment and said second segment are generally parallel to a longitudinal axis of said
3 combine with said second segment positioned generally adjacent to an inside edge of said
4 first segment when said auger is in the storage position.

1 14. (Canceled).

1 15. (Previously Presented) The unloading auger according to Claim 1, wherein said
2 second segment defines an auger exit opening for delivering the crop material to the
3 ambient environment.

1 16. (Previously Presented) The agricultural combine according to Claim 6, wherein
2 said storage bin defines an upper surface, and wherein said horizontal section is in
3 communication with said upper surface.

1 17. (Currently Amended) In an agricultural combine disposed in an ambient
2 environment, an unloading auger for removing a crop material from a storage bin, the
3 unloading auger comprising:

4 an infeed section coupled to an outlet of said storage bin for receiving the crop
5 material from said storage bin;

6 an outfeed section including a first segment coupled to said infeed section and a

7 second segment hingedly connected to said first segment, wherein said first segment and
8 said second segment ~~can be relatively~~ are pivoted in a substantially horizontal plane
9 between a storage position and coaxially connected unloading position while maintaining
10 said infeed section in a substantially vertical orientation; and
11 a safety mechanism for preventing the crop material from spilling out when said
12 auger is in the storage position.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The unloading auger according to Claim 17, wherein
• 2 said safety mechanism prevents said auger from operating in the storage position.

1 19. (Canceled).

1 20. (Canceled).

1 21. (New) In an agricultural combine disposed in an ambient environment, an
2 unloading auger for removing a crop material from a storage bin, the unloading auger
3 comprising:

4 an infeed section coupled to an outlet of said storage bin for receiving the crop
5 material from said storage bin;

6 an outfeed section including a first segment coupled to said infeed section and a
7 second segment hingedly connected to said first segment, wherein said first segment and
8 said second segment are pivoted in a horizontal plane between a storage position and

9 coaxially connected unloading position while maintaining said infeed section in a
10 substantially vertical orientation, wherein no portion of said first segment and said
11 second segment extends beyond the rearmost end of said combine when said auger is in
12 the storage position;
13 a hinged joint pivotally connecting said first segment and said second segment,
14 thereby allowing said first segment and said second segment to be relatively pivoted
15 when moving said auger between the storage position and the unloading position,
16 wherein said hinged joint is lockable when said auger is in the unloading position; and
17 a safety mechanism for preventing the crop material from spilling out when said
18 auger is in the storage position, wherein said safety mechanism selectively prevents said
19 auger from operating in the storage position.